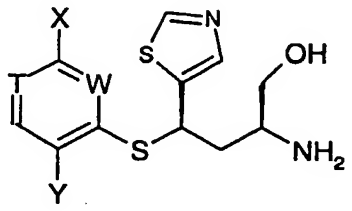
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

T and W independently represent CR^1 or N; and when more than one R^1 group is present, each may be selected independently;

X and R^1 independently represent H, C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

Y represents C1 to 4 alkyl, C1 to 4 alkoxy, halogen, CN, C≡CH, NO_2, CHO, $COCH_3$ or NHCHO; said alkyl or alkoxy group being optionally further substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Y represents CN or halogen.

3. A compound according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein X and R^1 independently represent H, halogen or CF_3.

4. A compound of formula (I), according to Claim 1, which is:

2-[[(1*R*,3*S*)-3-amino-4-hydroxy-1-(5-thiazolyl)butyl]thio]-5-chloro-3-pyridinecarbonitrile;

2-[[(1*R*,3*S*)-3-amino-4-hydroxy-1-(5-thiazolyl)butyl]thio]-4-chloro-benzonitrile;
(2*S*,4*R*)-2-amino-4-[[2-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]thio]-5-thiazolebutanol;
2-[[(1*R*,3*S*)-3-amino-4-hydroxy-1-(5-thiazolyl)butyl]thio]-6-(trifluoromethyl)- 3-pyridinecarbonitrile;
2-[[(1*R*,3*S*)-3-amino-4-hydroxy-1-(5-thiazolyl)butyl]thio]-5-chloro-benzonitrile;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. A compound of formula (I), according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a medicament.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

7. The use of a compound of formula (I) according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of human diseases or conditions in which inhibition of nitric oxide synthase activity is beneficial.

8. The use as claimed in Claim 7 wherein it is predominantly inducible nitric oxide synthase that is inhibited.

9. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory diseases.

10. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is inflammatory bowel disease.

11. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

12. The use as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the disease is osteoarthritis.

13. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of pain.

14. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a COX-2 inhibitor, in the manufacture of a medicament, for the treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory diseases.

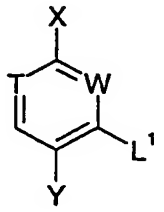
15. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, human diseases or conditions in which inhibition of nitric oxide synthase activity is beneficial which comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or at increased risk of, such diseases or conditions.

16. A method of treatment according to Claim 15 in which it is predominantly inducible nitric oxide synthase that is inhibited.

17. A method of treating, or reducing the risk of, inflammatory disease in a person suffering from, or at risk of, said disease, wherein the method comprises administering to the person a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

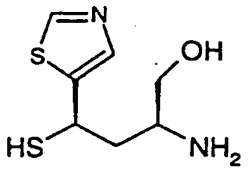
18. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, enantiomer or racemate thereof, wherein the process comprises:

(a) reaction of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

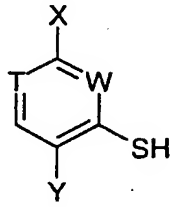
wherein T, X, Y and W are as defined in Claim 1 and L^1 represents a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

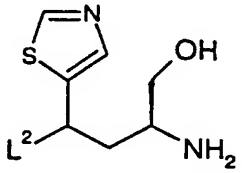
or

(b) reaction of a compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein T, W, X and Y are as defined in Claim 1, with a compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein L^2 is a leaving group;

and where desired or necessary converting the resultant compound of formula (I), or another salt thereof, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or converting one compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and where desired converting the resultant compound of formula (I) into an optical isomer thereof.

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